

Most people agree that returning children to their family is desirable. The disagreement occurs with respect to what constitutes "reasonable efforts." Critics say that states frequently put family preservation above child protection. They worry that too often children are reunited with parents who are still dangerous. In addition, critics charge that children are allowed to languish in foster care too long, denying them the stability and security they need to prosper.

Some suggest a different standard for decisions regarding family unification: the "best interests of the child." But concerns have been raised that this is as subjective as "reasonable efforts," and could swing the pendulum too far in the other direction, removing children too hastily from families. Some also argue that family preservation could work more often if only greater resources were available.

Congress has taken some steps to address these concerns. With my support, earlier this year the House passed a bill which clarifies that states do not have to make a "reasonable effort" to preserve families if the child has been subjected to "aggravated circumstances," like abandonment, torture, or sexual abuse; the child's parent has killed or assaulted another of his children; or a parent's rights to a sibling of the child have already been terminated. The bill requires that children's health and safety be of paramount concern in efforts to preserve or reunite families. The bill would also push states to make greater and prompt efforts to place children for adoption if they cannot be reunited with their parents. The Senate has not yet acted on this measure.

CONCLUSION:

The family is the best institution for rearing children, and most families do it very well. The question of what to do when parents fail their children is seldom a simple one. Some cases are clear cut, but many require difficult judgment calls.

Congress must ensure that states have adequate resources to protect children and provide abusive parents who want to change the help they need to do. Efforts to reunite abused children with their families are critical, but we must be willing to abandon those efforts if they are not working. Congress should also ensure that states have flexibility to respond to the unique needs of children and families in crisis. And we must all support the work of community organizations, churches, and other groups which seek to help foster healthy families.

TRIBUTE TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the tremendous work of the Small Business Committee on the Small Business Programs Reauthorization and Amendments Acts of 1997. As a member of this committee I can attest to the effort that went into this bill. I am especially pleased at the reauthorization of the Small Business Technology Transfer Program [STTR]. In 1992 there was a great need for STTR and I took the lead in supplementing the already successful Small Business Innovative Research Program [SBIR] with this effort to tap into the vast resources of innovation that exist at our universities and nonprofit institutions. This program has stimu-

lated much needed research in the science and technology sectors and has proven successful in developing the best ideas at our universities and federally-funded research centers and allowing them to be commercially viable. I thank Chairman TALENT and Congressman LAFALCE for their support.

This legislation provides much needed funds for worthy programs, such as the Micro-loan program, that help give a jump start to small businesses. Other valuable programs worth mentioning are the Certified Development Companies [CDC's], listed in title II. With this language the CDC's will be able to expand their program to admit more qualified CDC's which would alleviate the load for SBA. Many small business owners will see less redtape and can expect to see a more efficient system that will help expedite their paperwork.

In addition, the SBA reauthorization bill allocates funding to its microlending partners to provide added support for technical assistance for transportation and child care assistance. I applaud Congressmen BALDACCIO and FLAKE for their efforts and timeless energy dedicated to this provision in this legislation. The small business community was in great need of such a helpful program. In this day of two income families and single parents, child care assistance is a huge relief for parents who need to work and pay the bills.

Another important provision in the Small Business programs Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 1997 is the Women's Business Enterprises. This legislation continues strong support for women's business efforts, including expanding the women's business center program, which provides seed funding for business training centers throughout this Nation and is one of the SBA's most successful programs.

Mr. Speaker, in the past few years the people of southern Illinois have suffered a great deal due to high unemployment, yet are undaunted. The 19th Congressional District continues to search for new industries and opportunities. Small businesses are critical to this effort. The people of Illinois and the Nation want to move on and capitalize on the many opportunities that await them. It is essential that we continue to provide the SBA with the resources to effect positive economic changes in this country. I congratulate the bi-partisan effort involved in crafting this bill, and urge my colleagues to support it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOOKY GOLDMAN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. BERMAN and I ask our colleagues to join us in congratulating Sooky Goldman, who is being honored by the Maple Counseling Center in Beverly Hills at their 25th Anniversary Ball. We are delighted to join Sooky's family and friends in recognizing her extraordinary charitable contributions.

For the past 25 years, Sooky has been an exemplary leader in civic and philanthropic

work. Her efforts have been recognized by more than 30 organizations ranging from the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and YMCA to People Assisting the Homeless [PATH] and the Beverly Hills Police Department. In addition, Sooky created the William O. Douglas Classroom which has provided countless children from all over Los Angeles County the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Santa Monica mountains. She has a well-earned reputation for the tireless dedication and enthusiasm she brings to each project she undertakes.

The Maple Counseling Center in Beverly Hills, which provides low fee mental health counseling for nearly 500 individuals each week, depends greatly on its committed supporters. Its work is particularly needed in the current climate of scarcity of funding for mental health services. As a principal founder of the center, Sooky has enriched and broadened its mission of offering comprehensive and high quality mental health services to those most in need.

While Sooky is active in many causes, she has always placed a great importance on her family. She is fortunate to have a loving and supportive husband, Sam, three children, David, Joel and Kaye, and seven grandchildren. Despite her many commitments, Sooky has successfully managed to strike a balance between her public and private lives.

Our community owes a great debt of gratitude to Sooky, and we ask our congressional colleagues to join us in saluting her for her singular achievements. We wish her every happiness and success in the future.

PRESIDENT CLINTON HONORS
NINA ARCHABAL AND MARTIN
MARTY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the distinguished work of Nina Archabal and Martin Marty and to congratulate them on their honor. This week, Nina and Martin were among 10 Americans to whom President Clinton bestowed the National Humanities Medal for extraordinary achievement in the humanities. On this the first day of October, the beginning of National Arts and Humanities Month, it is very appropriate that we celebrate those that enable many of us to enjoy and experience the arts and humanities.

As the director of the Minnesota Historical Society, Nina Archabal has renewed interest in Minnesota's heritage and infused it with new life. In the last 5 years, her energy and dedication has carried the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul from a dream to one of the Nation's premier centers for the preservation and presentation of history. By giving all groups the ability to express their unique histories, she allows Minnesotans to celebrate their diversity while transcending their differences in race, ethnicity, age, gender, or creed. Most recently, Nina was selected to serve on the American Folk Life Center board of the Library of Congress.

In these hectic times, it is very easy to lose sight of our cultural and social heritage. However, through the study of history we learn to